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| Community Bulletin  Water delivery for Yering Backswamp |
| Due to its unique values, Melbourne Water has been investigating the long term water needs of Yering Backswamp to ensure the site’s ecological future. |

Yering Backswamp is a site of biological significance located on Melbourne Water owned and managed land, southeast of Sugarloaf Reservoir and 5km southwest of Yarra Glen.

This 4.8Ha site contains a rare collection of threatened vegetation, including the Swamp Water-starwort, Slender Bittercress and Australian Basket-grass. It is also a habitat for the threatened Peron’s Tree Frog, River Blackfish and a range of native animal and bird species.

**What’s the issue?**

The swamp is currently under threat due to a range of issues, including changes to the water it receives. In the past, the swamp received water from the Yarra River during high flows, however, since dams have been built, high flows do not occur as frequently that would have inundated the swamp. Consequently, the swamp is watered using Environmental Entitlement water.

**Protecting the site**

In order to protect and maintain Yering Backswamp’s ecological values, we are planning to deliver water to the site, to mimic what would naturally occur.

The proposed delivery of water will occur in late August until October and aims to inundate the site and maintain the water level to provide conditions to:

* Ensure aquatic species at the site are able to persist
* Encourage the further dispersion and spread of native aquatic herbs and species
* Impede the encroachment of terrestrial plant species into the main sections of the wetland to allow the targeted herbaceous species to thrive

**Delivery of Water**

We have requested the use of up to 30ML of the Yarra’s Environmental Entitlement, owned by the Victorian Environmental Water Holder (VEWH), to water the site.

This water will be released from the Maroondah Aqueduct directly into the swamp.

The swamp will be allowed to fill, held at this level for eight weeks and then allowed to draw down naturally.

**What might you notice?**

The Yering Backswamp site will be inundated to a depth of approximately 80 cm, and we recommend avoiding entering the inundated area of the site if possible for eight weeks.

**Monitoring**

The water levels will be monitored daily to ensure it meets the environmental water recommendations. Ecological monitoring will take place after the event to ensure that the unique target values have benefitted from the water and to improve water delivery.

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